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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

MASSACHUSETTS MAN SENTENCED IN NASHUA GUN CASE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Resident Agent in Charge Clifford Ellston, and Nashua Police Chief Timothy Hefferan, announced that Andrew Tomasini, age 21, of Groton, Massachusetts was sentenced yesterday in U.S. District Court in connection with the possession of a firearm with an obliterated serial number.

During a hearing before U. S. District Court Chief Judge, Steven J. McAuliffe, Tomasini was sentenced to a term of 37 months in prison and two years probation. Tomasini had previously admitted that he possessed a 9 mm semi-automatic firearm with an obliterated serial number. The weapon was found during the execution of a search of his then Nashua residence on May 14, 2004.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal drug and firearms laws as mandated by DOJ's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of convicted felons and drug traffickers is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire. It is a responsibility that this office takes seriously and we will make every effort to insure that those who cannot legally possess a firearm will be prevented from doing so."

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

The successful prosecution of this case resulted from the collaborative efforts of the Nashua, New Hampshire Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert J. Veiga.